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LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, H.E. Hassan A. Hassanov, to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference, Mr. Mario Raffaelli, as received by fax.

I should be grateful if you would have this and the above-mentioned letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference on Nagorny Karabakh

As you know, Azerbaijan has always adhered to the CSCE principles and is endeavouring to contribute to the success of the Minsk process. We believe that the Minsk Conference should be convened immediately the necessary conditions are met.

Of course, we appreciate the efforts made by the Italian chairmanship and by you yourself in the search for solutions satisfactory to all sides, in itself an extremely difficult task.

The consultations which have taken place between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Mr. Mossberg, the personal representative of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office, and members of his mission have been very constructive, and I am sure that they will make a positive contribution to the speedy completion of the work and the adoption by all parties of the "Timetable of urgent steps to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)". At the same time I feel that I must state the position of Azerbaijan on the initiative for a new discussion in the Security Council of the problems of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan designed to secure support for the Chairman's proposal of 28 September 1993 in a separate paragraph of the draft resolution.

Azerbaijan regards this initiative as a factor which may complicate the attempts to bring the positions of the sides together on a number of points in the Timetable on which consensus has not been reached.

In particular, the leaders of Azerbaijan believe, on the basis of the concept of the Minsk process, that the Minsk Conference cannot begin its work until after the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of the Azerbaijani Republic.

We cannot understand the total disregard of the problem of the liberation of the Lachin district ever since the attempts to solve it with which the Minsk process itself began in June last year, a problem which was considered at the subsequent meetings, including the one in Paris.

I think that prior agreement must be reached in particular on the question of the occupied zones of the Zangelan and Kazakh districts, since these territories do not abut on the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic - proof of their occupation by units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

The Azerbaijani Republic is particularly concerned about the problem of the almost one million refugees, including the fate of the 50,000 Azerbaijanis driven out of Nagorny Karabakh. It is astonishing that the Minsk Group can calmly commit to oblivion people driven by violence from their homes, when their right to equal footing with the Armenians has been recognized by a decision of

the CSCE Council of Ministers of 24 March 1992. None of the points in the proposed Timetable makes provision for their return to their places of permanent residence. Should this be understood as acceptance by the Minsk Group of ethnic cleansing as an irreversible fait accompli of the Armenian forces in Nagorny Karabakh? We believe that the Government of Azerbaijan, which has made commitments to the Armenian population of Nagorny Karabakh, must be given genuine opportunities and the conditions for guaranteeing militarily and politically the safe return of the Azerbaijanis to the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic, and that this should be duly reflected in the documents of the Minsk process.

There is no doubt that an essential condition for the fruitful conduct of the negotiations is the equal participation of all the interested parties and the mandatory implementation of de-escalation measures, including the identification and withdrawal of foreign military personnel and armaments and the deactivation of the heavy artillery in the conflict zone.

We believe that the members of the Minsk Group who are not participants in the conflict must, in accordance with the CSCE principles, put an end to the barefaced attempts by the representatives of the Armenian side in the negotiations to dictate to others from a position of strength.

As has been shown by the latest escalation of military operations caused by the recent attack by Armenian troops in Djebrail district, about which I reported in my previous letter, it is very important to clarify in the Timetable the points dealing with the machinery for control and supervision of a total and durable cease-fire.

I think that it would be a timely and useful move to include an item concerning the responsibility of the Republic of Armenia for the resumption of the military operations, for it is in fact the Armenian side which is constantly flouting its commitments.

All these comments on the provisions of the Timetable which you have proposed were expounded in detail by the Azerbaijani delegation at the Paris meeting and, in accordance with established procedure, were submitted in writing to the secretariat and the chairmanship. Unfortunately, they were not duly taken into account in the document submitted to the parties.

In view of the foregoing, it is a matter of urgency to organize a fresh discussion of the Timetable. We affirm our readiness to continue the negotiations on the drafting of the document, which should reflect to the fullest possible extent the rules of international law and the CSCE principles.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Azerbaijan